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(54) **Optical switching apparatus and method for use in the construction mode testing of a modular fiber administration system**

(57) A device and method for connecting an optical switch to the optical fibers that terminate on a fiber distribution shelf within a fiber administration system. The optical switch device contains a support plate that is shaped essentially the same as the protective cover of fiber distribution shelf. As such, the support plate of the optical switch device can be joined to a specific fiber

distribution shelf by substituting the support plate for the protective cover. An optical switch is affixed to the support plate, wherein the optical switch is sized not to extend beyond the peripheral boundaries of the support plate. As a result, when the support plate is placed over a fiber distribution shelf, the optical switch joined to the support plate does not obscure any other fiber distribution shelf in the fiber administration system.

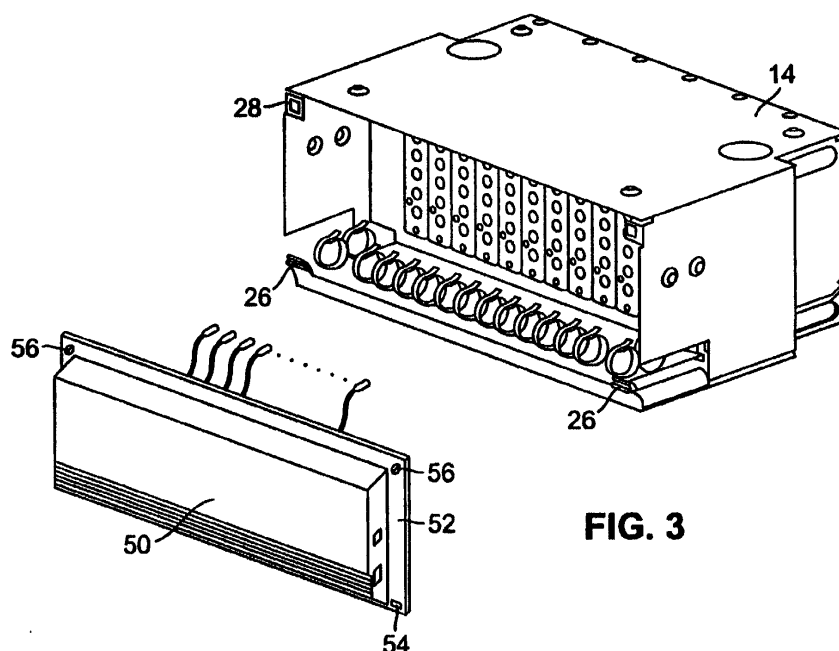


FIG. 3

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04Q G02B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24 April 2003	Examiner Vandevenne, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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